



The President's Daily Brief

June 6, 1975

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

June 6, 1975

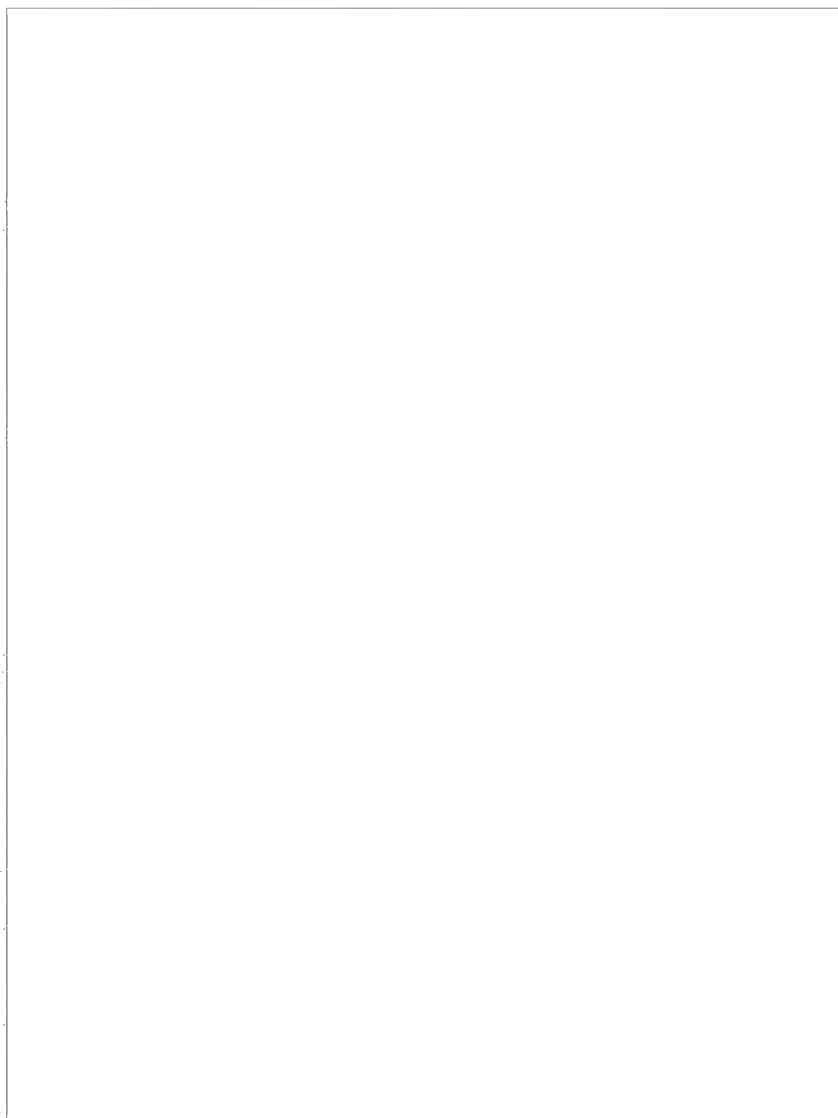
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USSR

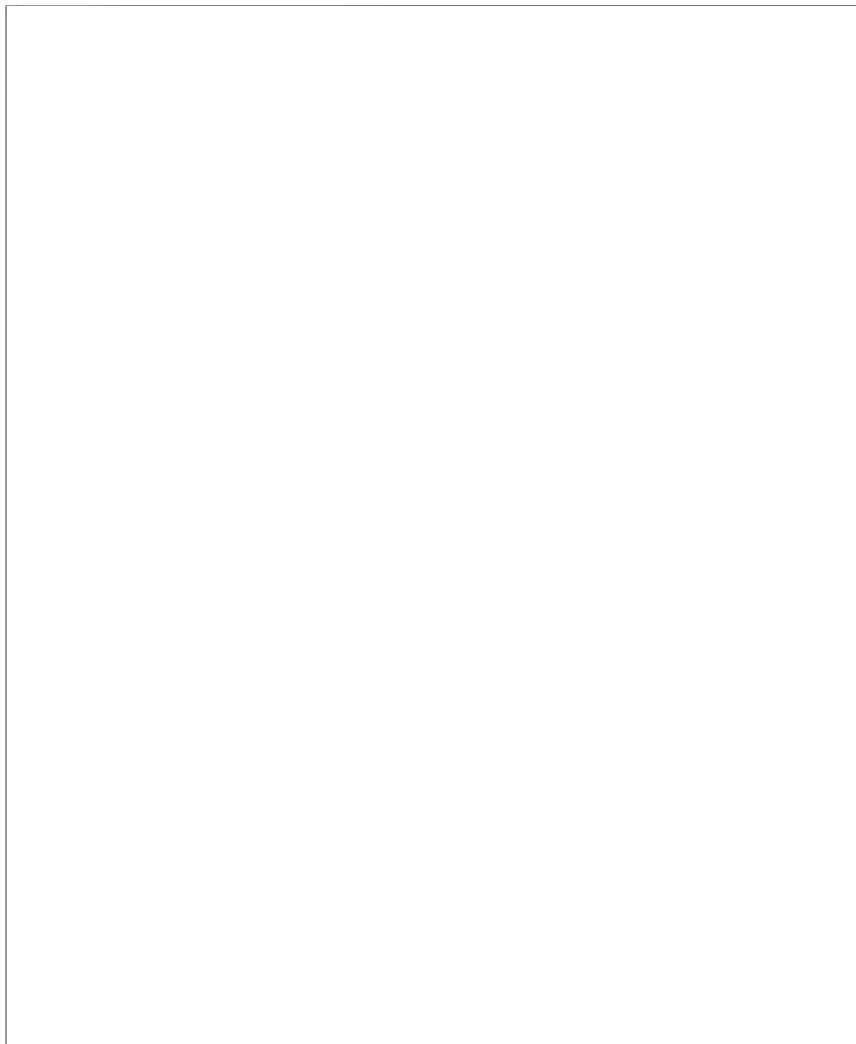


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TURKEY



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VIETNAM

Hanoi is expressing interest in UN membership for both North and South Vietnam and is using the Soviet Union to gauge the US reaction to such an application at next fall's General Assembly session.

The Soviet chargé told US officials on Tuesday that both Vietnamese states desired admission to the UN as separate entities and had been discussing this plan with Moscow. In response to a suggestion that the admission of both Vietnams might be linked to the granting of UN membership to North and South Korea, the Soviet chargé pointed to Pyongyang's strong objections to dual Korean membership, and predictably argued against drawing any linkage between the two questions.

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In the past, North Vietnam's position on UN membership has been that national reunification must be completed prior to entry into the UN. Hanoi's decision to move away from this long-standing policy is the clearest evidence to date that the Vietnamese communist leadership has opted for an ostensibly independent southern regime of indefinite duration. Foreign press reports from South Vietnam have been reporting the recent presence in Saigon on high-ranking North Vietnamese officials for "discussions" with Provisional Revolutionary Government leaders. According to these unconfirmed reports, a new southern government might be announced as early as today--the sixth anniversary of the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

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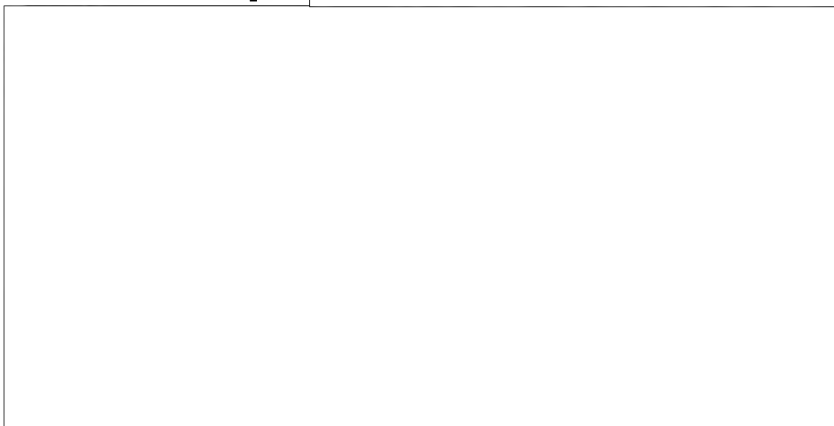
LAOS

The communists are following up their recent ouster from the cabinet of all important rightists by moving quickly to consolidate control over that body.

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The Lao communists still pay lip service to the coalition concept. [REDACTED]

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Phoumi [REDACTED] still appears to attach some value to the continuation of US aid and to the maintenance of relations with Washington. [REDACTED]

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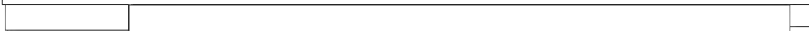
EGYPT



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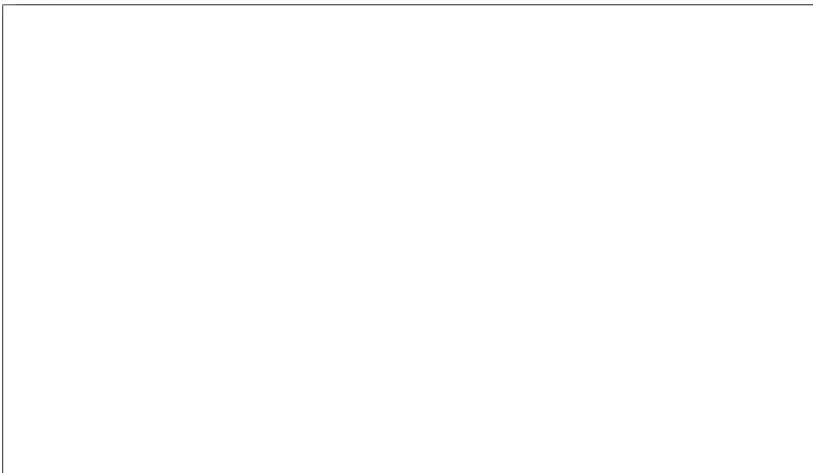
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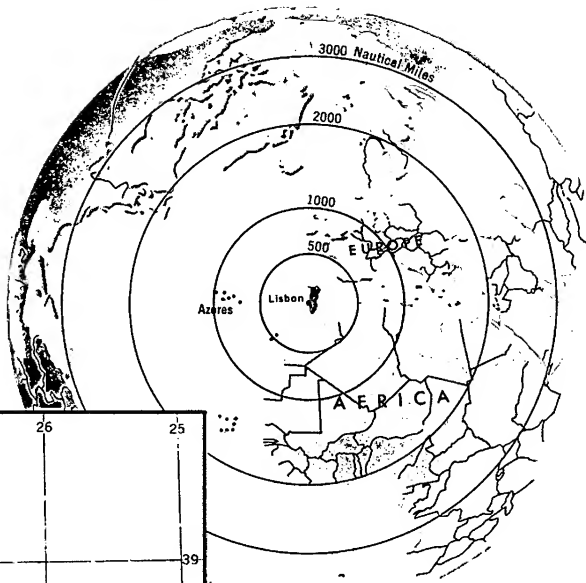
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NOTE

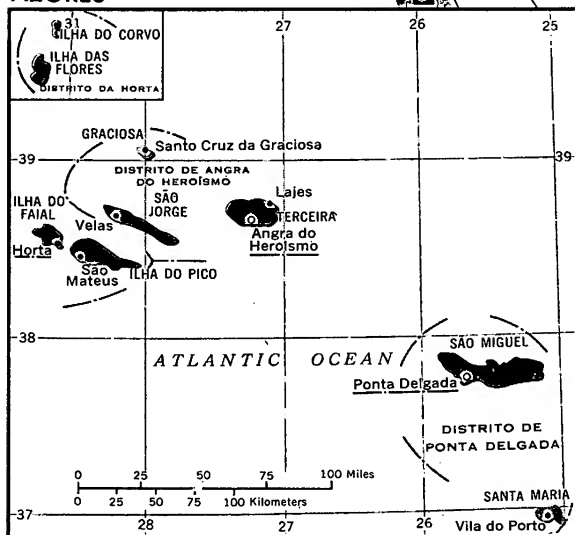
Azorean separatists may seek to capitalize on a farmers' demonstration planned for this afternoon in Ponta Delgada to protest Portuguese agricultural policy in the Azores. The demonstration will coincide with the visit of five NATO ships--including a US vessel.

Most local civilian and military authorities are planning to be absent from Ponta Delgada during the demonstration. No violence is expected, but local merchants are expected to close their shops in solidarity with the demonstrators. There is no evidence that the separatists intend to take advantage of the demonstration and the absence of high government officials [redacted] The Liberation Front, however, will certainly use this show of discontent to attract new support and might see the fortuitous set of circumstances as too good an opportunity to pass up.

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AZORES



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THE AZORES

In view of your interest in the basis for Lisbon's claim that the Azores are an integral part of Portugal, we offer the following background.

Portugal's claim on the Azores dates back to 1431 when Portuguese explorer Goncalo Cabral discovered the uninhabited archipelago and called it the Land of the Hawks--Azores. Having received a commission from Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal to colonize the islands, he founded the city of Ponta Delgada and brought in a large number of Portuguese and Flemish settlers and knights. Because of the large Flemish population, the Azores were often called by 16th century writers "The Flemish Islands." In spite of the Flemish settlement, and an admixture of Breton and Moorish blood, the great mass of the people are of Portuguese descent, and Portuguese is the only language.

Portugal's rights to the islands were affirmed in the Papal Decree of 1493 which settled arguments with rival Spain over control of overseas colonies. When Portugal came under Spanish domination in 1580, the Azores resisted Spanish efforts at occupation. Subdued in 1583, the islands were ruled by Spain until 1640 when Portuguese rule was reestablished.

Lisbon administered the islands as a colony until 1833, when they were made an integral province of Portugal. Being predominantly Roman Catholic, the islands also became an integral part of the ecclesiastical province of Lisbon.

Since 1940, although still considered an integral part of Portugal, the Azores have been given a large measure of autonomy. They now constitute three autonomous districts, each of which is administered by a civil governor and a general board, whose authority is broader than that of mainland provincial governors. In an emergency--should communications with Portugal be severed--they are empowered to act on their own initiative in the name of the Portuguese government.

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